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RHEOCLOIDES, A NEW ATHERINID FISH FROM MADAGASCAR

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Through the kindness of Mr. Richard Archbold, a member of the expedition, we are in receipt of a small collection of fresh-water fishes obtained from the island of Madagascar by the Mission Zoologique Franco-Anglo-Américaine à Madagascar, Monsieur J. Delacour, Director. The most notable of these is an undescribed atherinid from the north-eastern part of the island.

RHEOCLOIDES, new genus

Anal fin of moderate length, originating under the first dorsal. First dorsal of about 5 weak, flexible spines, separated from the second by a distance slightly greater than the length of its longest ray. Caudal fin forked. Pectorals placed rather high, triangular. Origin of ventrals under last quarter of pectoral. Jaws about equal or the lower slightly projecting; maxillary extending to below front of eye. Jaws with bands of unequal pointed teeth, large for the family. Opercles and top of the head with large scales, but a scaleless area extends on the back to a little before the dorsal, downward in front of the pectoral and backward on the lower surfaces to the anal. Scales cycloid. Body robust; suggesting *Rheocles* in appearance, but differing from same in the various characters given above.

TYPE.—*Rheocloides pellegrini*, new species.

Rheocloides pellegrini, new species

DESCRIPTION OF TYPE.—No. 9696, American Museum of Natural History, from "one day west" of Andapa, Madagascar, August 27, 1930, A. L. Rand and P. A. Du Mont.

Length to base of caudal, 68 mm.; depth in this length, 4.5; head, 3.7. Eye in head, 3.4; snout, 3.4; interorbital, 3; maxillary, 2.6; greatest width of body (back of head), 1.8; depth of peduncle, 2.9; its length, 1.6; longest dorsal spine, 3.8; longest dorsal ray, 2.5; longest anal ray, 2.5; caudal lobe, 1.3.

Dorsal, V-13; anal, 17. Scales 36, 12 around peduncle. Six rather short gill-rakers on the lower limb of the first arch.

Interorbital flat; lower jaw slightly projecting; maxillary normal, without a notch, slightly oblique, extending to under front of eye. Body robust, more compressed posteriorly. Ventrals extending to vent which is situated immediately before the anal origin. Top of the head and opercles with large scales; a scaleless area on

the back extends to within about the length of its base from the first dorsal, downward before the pectorals, and back on the lower surfaces to the front of the anal.

Color pale, a dark streak in the center of the side posteriorly. A dark blotch across the base of the pectoral; pectorals and ventrals pale, other fins more or less dusky.

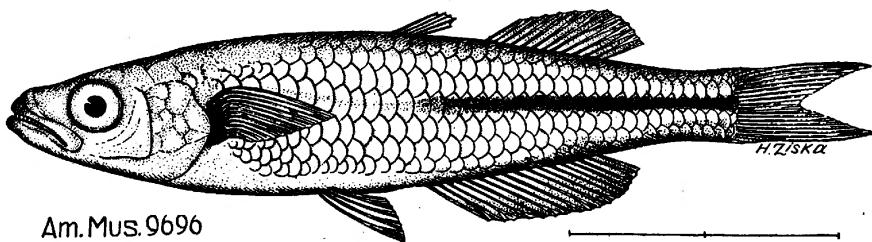


Fig. 1. *Rheocloides pellegrini*, type.

Comparative measurements of three other specimens with the same data follow:

Length	Depth	Head	Eye	Dorsal	Anal	Scales
45 mm.	4.8	3.5	3.2	IV-13	16	35
52	4.4	3.6	3.4	V-13	17	33
69	4.2	3.6	3.6	V-13	17	35

The scaleless area on the anterior part of the body is apparently not fortuitous, being similar in all four specimens, except that in the largest cotype it does not extend backward so far.